

**MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES**

**GUATEMALA**

**DEATH SQUADS/SECURITY FORCES: MLN**

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All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available. Summaries and Abstracts by Pat Chaffee of the Central American Refugee Center, San Francisco, CA.

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### DEATH SQUADS/SECURITY FORCES: MLN

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|-------------|---|
| I.          | <p>"MAS Candidate Forms Alliance with MLN," Guatemala City, EL Grafico, 20 November 1990, p. 3 (as reported in FBIS: <u>Daily Report on Latin America</u>, 26 November 1990, p. 26).</p> <p>The National Liberation Movement (MLN) becomes officially allied with the Solidary Action Movement (MAS) in support of Jorge Serrano Elias, MAS presidential candidate.</p>   |
| II.         | <p>Americas Watch, "Messengers of Death: Human Rights in Guatemala, November 1988 - February 1990" (New York: Human Rights Watch, March 1990), pp. 28-31.</p> <p>There are suspicions that the January 12 assassinations of Hector Oqueli Colindres and Gilda Flores Amparo were a cooperative effort between Guatemalan and Salvadoran security forces and death squads. The leader of the MLN "has been credited with helping organize a death squad apparatus run by EL Salvador's ARENA party in the early 1980's, using the MLN's own military wing as a model."</p> |
| III.        | <p>Andres Oppenheimer, "Guatemalan Right-Wing Accused of Stirring Unrest," <u>Miami Herald</u>, 21 August 1989 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Vol. 38, Iss. 2, #815).</p> <p>Some government officials cite the MLN as one of the prime suspects in support of recent teachers strikes. A Western diplomat also accused the right wing of the fomenting strikes in order to create a climate of anarchy in which the military could take control of the country.</p>   |
| IV.         | <p>Tom Barry, <u>Guatemala: A Country Guide</u> (Albuquerque, NM: Inter-Hemispheric Education Resource Center, September 1990), p. 23.</p> <p>The old party of the extreme right, the National Liberation Movement (MLN) led the coup that overthrew the Arbenz government and remains vigorously anti-communist. Nevertheless, Sandoval Alarcon MLN leader, met with the FMLN for talks in Madrid in May 1990.</p>   |
| V.          | <p>"Violence Grows, Unionist Murdered," <u>This Week, Central America and Panama</u>, 24 October 1988, p. 330-332.</p> <p>Government sources say that right wing forces are responsible for the murder of Banco Internacional employee and unionist Carlos Martinez Godoy. They suggest that the killer came from the western part of the country, the political heartland of the MLN.</p>  |
| VI.         | <p>"Newsbriefs: Guatemala/Giron," <u>This Week, Central America and Panama</u>, 4 July 1988, p. 312.</p> <p>The MLN threatened to charge Rev. Andres Giron with libel. An exchange of verbal attacks started when the MLN said Giron was a rebel and Giron in turn said MLN leader Mario Sandoval Alarcon was an assassin. Giron later explained he had accused the MLN party and its death squads, and not directly Sandoval.</p>  |

- VII. "Right Attacks Archbishop." This Week, Central America and Panama, 4 July 1988, p. 206.

In a telegram to Pope John Paul II, a branch of the right wing MLN accused Guatemalan Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrio of "supporting (Marxist terrorists and guerillas." The archbishop has urged national reconciliation talks between the government and the guerillas within the context of the Equipulas II peace process.

- VIII. "The Mountain Mind-Set," This Week, Central America and Panama, 23 May 1988, p. 155.

A former G-2 operative accused the Cerezo Administration and Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo of trying to infiltrate Marxist-Leninist ideas via the Christian Democrats into the army in order to create a "socialistic" state. These accusations had been raised earlier and form part of the daily fare of the rightist MLN.

- IX. Americas Watch, "Civil Patrols in Guatemala" (New York: Americas Watch Committee, August 1986), p. 45.

A Guatemalan Congressman explained to Americas Watch that the Army has often chosen members of the right-wing MLN as heads of civil patrol units because these individuals have an ideological commitment to the system and are guaranteed to control and spy upon civil patrol members.

- X. Allan Naim, "Terror With a Human Face: Guatemala Stages an Election," Village Voice, 5 November 1985.

MLN presidential candidate Mario Sandoval Alarcon brings a background and context of violence toward political opposition. He participated in the 1954 coup and the 1963 coup. He and his party acknowledged responsibility for the White Hand death squad. In 1970, he chose as MLN presidential candidate, the army counterinsurgency commander Carlos Arana.

- XI. Michael McClintock, "The American Connection Vol. II: State Terror and Popular Resistance in Guatemala" (London: Zed Books Ltd., 1985), pp. 66-69, 83-90, 98-102.

The MLN provided the army with military commissioners, whose role changed after 1963 from a largely symbolic representation of the army to an active instrument of the army in counterinsurgency. In 1966, the MLN contributed significantly to the organization of the death squad Mano Blanco. MLN presidential candidate, Carlos Arana Osorio, "elected" in 1970 launched bloody counterinsurgency activity.

- XII. Ciaran O. Maolain, ed., "Latin American Political Movements" (New York: Facts on File Publications, 1985), pp. 142-145.

Originating with U.S. backing in the 1954 coup, the MLN mounted a military coup against the elected government in 1963. MLN candidates were "elected" in 1970 and 1974. While the MLN has not won elections since then, it has actively supported military counterinsurgency activity.

- XIII. Marlise Simons, "Feared Guatemalan Rightist Battles Rising Leftist Tide," Washington Post, 6 April 1980 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Vol. 20, Iss. 4, #1504).

Mario Sandoval Alarcon, fierce anticommunist and leader of the MLN, says he finds inspiration in "Patria y Libertad," the Chilean neo-fascist organization that claimed responsibility for numerous acts of terrorism and sabotage against former President Salvador Allende's government. He pledges Guatemalan support for the rightist forces in EL Salvador and condemns U.S. concern about linking foreign aid to a nation's human rights record.